

Bonhomme, Penny

From: dproudfo@bridgeport.edu
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:04 PM
To: PHC Testimony
Subject: ADHP Proposal

Good Morning,

My name is Donna Proudfoot and I am a Student Dental Hygienist, at the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene. I am very proud to have chosen this as my profession and I would like for you to support, on my behalf, the legislation to establish the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner. The ADHP will add a new member to the dental team to deliver care to the under served in Connecticut.

Access to dental services necessary to maintain optimal oral health, which is an integral component of total health, can increase with the creation of a mid level practitioner like the ADHP. Please support the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner.

This proposal will make it possible for thousands of under served patients who cannot obtain care, to receive needed dental care. This type of mid level provider, akin to the APRN (nurse practitioner) is the wave of the future and as you know the Origin of Dental Hygiene began in 1913 in Bridgeport, Ct. We will be celebrating our 100th year next May.

Unfortunately, the opponents in CT are disseminating inaccurate information. Below I have pointed out some truth:

- There are 11 states that have advanced dental hygienists, so why not Connecticut, the home of Dental Hygiene?
- The ADHP will be built on the scientific knowledge and evidence based skills founded in prevention based on the philosophy of a visionary dentist, Dr. Alfred C. Fones, in Bridgeport, CT in 1913.
- The education proposed for ADHP for each separate competency is comparable to the education and training received in dental school for each competency, and would be more than adequate. However, the ADHP will not be doing as many competencies as they would if attending dental school. Thereby the term mid level practioner.
- A public health program's ability to increase treatment time efficiently reduces the barriers to care that patient's experience such as lack of transportation, time away from work or school and costs. It is reported that children on Medicaid live within ten miles of at least two dental providers. Ten miles is a huge barrier. This report only speaks to children, what about their families, seniors, adults and those with disabilities.

Once again, please consider supporting this proposal as it will greatly benefit the Health Care system.

Thank You,
Donna Proudfoot
Student Dental Hygienist
Fones School of Dental Hygiene